

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER : The Village Panchayat Act was introduced first. As it did not meet the requirements of the people in general, and as several representations were received from the public for a different organisation, another organisation had to be formed. Both the Acts are now functioning and when the proper time comes they will be amalgamated.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : May I know the difference between the one and the other ?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Thiruvella*) : I rise to a point of order. The honourable member obviously wants an information on a legal point.

PRESIDENT : He would not get it (*laughter*).

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : My submission is that the preamble containing the.....

PRESIDENT : It is open to the honourable member to say so.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : Does the honourable member think that there is a duplication regarding the functions of these two organisations ?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER : It is not so.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*) : That is a question regarding the enactment and the interpretation of law.

PRESIDENT : What was said was that questions relating to legal opinion or interpretations of the law are not fit subjects for interpellation.

MR. K. A. MATHEW : The question does not bear upon the legal interpretation. I want to know the functions of these two organisations.

PRESIDENT : The functions are outlined in the Act.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI (*Mavelikara cum Kunnattur*) : May I know how many years have passed since the Village Panchayat system was introduced in Travancore ?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER : I would refer the honourable member to the Act.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : I want to know how many months or years it is now since the Act was put into operation ?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER : The Act was put into operation as soon as it was passed (*Laughter*).

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : Has any review of the Village Panchayats been made in Travancore ?

PRESIDENT : In every Administration Report there is a review on that.

Cement Factory.

115. *MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha cum Devicollam*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether the site for the proposed cement factory in Travancore has been selected ; and;

- (b) if the answer is in the negative,
 (i) is any investigation going on to fix the site; and
 (ii) whether there is any possibility of choosing a suitable site in North Travancore?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS (*Secretary to Government*): (a) No.

- (b) (i) Investigations have been made.
 (ii) Yes.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: May I know the result of the investigation for starting a cement factory in the site?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: It has been decided to start a factory.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Honourable members of this House are entitled to have full information on this matter. Just before the war this Government entered into a provisional agreement with the only Syndicate—the All India Cement Co.—that exists in India for the purpose of manufacturing cement, and arrangements were made for investigation. The investigations were successful with the result that it was decided that taking advantage of the deposits available there, a cement factory should be started in or near Kottayam. The whole production was renewed when the war broke out but the work could not be proceeded with thereafter. The Government of India, as part of their Post-war Reconstruction Plan and also as part of their General Road Development measures, have taken up this subject and have sanctioned the opening of the cement factory by the All-India Cement Co. This Government are acting as partners in Travancore. The order of the Government of India has been communicated to us. It is hoped that as a result of their endeavours to apportion the various schemes among the various Provinces and States, they will give a high priority to Travancore Cement, because part of our general programme is to cement concrete all our roads and also to improve canal traffic by cement concreting the banks of the canals. Those are essential parts of the Post-war Plan and that aspect has been put before the Government of India. It is hoped that as soon as possible the cement factory will be started.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether the management of this Company will be under the exclusive control of the Company itself?

PRESIDENT: Of the Government. In all Companies which have been recently started, the full control of policy, the biggest shareholding, will be in the hands of the Government. Companies like the Fertilizers and Chemicals, the Plywood Factory, the Rubber Factory, and so on which have been started are not purely profit making concerns. 51% of the Capital is held by the Government and they will have full control of the policy.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: In the statement made by the Chief Secretary last year it came to light that it was a private company and that in regard to appointments etc., Government had no voice.

PRESIDENT: This will be a private company in the sense that it will be registered under the Joint Stock Companies Acts. Government will be allowed to hold 51% of the shares and will be the biggest shareholder of the company.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: I want to know whether the Government have their officers on the staff of the Company?

PRESIDENT: Persons having the largest number of shares have the general policy and the direction of the company in their hands.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether the Government exercise any control regarding the Fertilizers and Chemicals in Alwaye in regard to appointment?

PRESIDENT: Order, order. It is irrelevant. The answer is yes.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether cement is being sold to the public at reasonable prices?

PRESIDENT: Cement is being sold under the orders of the Government of India and under the direction of the Honorary Cement Adviser to the Government of India.

Travancore Minerals Co. Ltd.

116. ***MR. K. A. MAHOMED** (*Quilon cum Kottarakara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) when the lease agreement with the Travancore Minerals Co., Ltd., terminated;

(b) whether the Government have entered into any new agreement with the Company;

(c) whether the Company are still carrying on mining operations; and

(d) the conditions under which the Company continue to mine.

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: (a) On the 15th November 1943.

(b) & (d) A provisional arrangement has been made with the Company pending the implementing of the Company's undertaking to carry on further processing of mineral sands wholly or in part in Travancore and subject to certain revised conditions as to payment of royalty and a share of the net profits.

(c) Yes.

MR. K. A. MAHOMED: May I know from the Government whether this provision is still in force?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Yes Sir.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know whether the indiscriminate working of the Mineral Company is not endangering the coastal area?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: The whole problem is being investigated.